



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 434TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE
6017 NE BESSIGNER STREET
FORT SILL OKLAHOMA 73503

October 20, 2017

Dear Family Member,

My name is Colonel Lee Overby and I am your trainee's Brigade Commander for Army Basic Combat Training. I would like to wish you and your family a Happy Holiday and a safe New Year season. The United States Army offers every trainee the opportunity to enjoy Holiday Block Leave during the Holiday season. Holiday Block leave begins on December 19, 2017 and ends January 3, 2018. It is mandatory that your trainee return no later than 8:00 p.m. January 3, 2017 in order to meet all Basic Combat Training requirements on schedule. Exceptions may be made for late arrivals caused by flight delays, traffic or any other circumstance that would impede safe return travel.

You and your trainee are authorized to make travel arrangements on your own, but I do encourage you to utilize the Army's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) office. The local MWR office has contracted with Adventure Travel to provide personal travel planning services for your trainee. Please see MWR's enclosure in this letter. There are four commercial airports located near Fort Sill: Will Rogers International Airport (OKC); Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFW); Dallas-Love Field (DAL); and Lawton Regional Airport (LAW). Trainees are authorized travel to and from any of these four airports. While Lawton is the closest, it is a very small hub and limited to flights to and from DFW. In past years, inclement weather has affected Holiday Travel and Lawton experienced significant delays and cancellations with a very limited capability to react to inclement weather.

If your trainee requires emergency medical care over the Holiday break, he/she should go to the closest emergency room. For routine care your trainee should visit the Tricare website at <http://tricare.mil/ContactUS/CallUS.aspx>, to locate available care centers. Your trainee should search by their region and dial the appropriate number for your area.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact your trainee's training unit or the Brigade Staff Duty office at (580) 442-1273. The support from family and friends is an important part of your trainee's success. Please help them enjoy a safe Holiday break.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee T. Overby", is written over a large, stylized, looped signature graphic.

LEE T. OVERBY
Colonel, US Army
Commanding